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4-21-1994

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Recommended Citation

University Marketing and Communications, "04/21/1994 - Stewart To Head New Student Services Divison.pdf" (1994). 1994. 215.
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94-109

April 21, 1994

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

STEWART TO HEAD NEW STUDENT SERVICES DIVISION

CHARLESTON -- Shirley Stewart of Charleston has been named director of Student Services at Eastern Illinois University.

Stewart, Eastern's director of Career Planning and Placement since 1988, will continue in that position in addition to assuming responsibility for Health Service, Recreational Sports, Student Legal Service and Student Activities, which contains University Board, Student Government, Greek Affairs, Parents Club, Student Organizations, Minority Programming and Volunteer Services.

The new Student Services Division, endorsed by a Student Affairs Organizational Review Committee, is intended to improve efficiency within the unit, according to Vice President for Student Affairs Lou Hencken.

"We are pleased we have been able to implement the committee's recommendations without hiring a new administrator; instead, we are reassigning an existing student affairs administrator, who was selected for the position following an internal search," Hencken said.

He noted, "Shirley is a dedicated staff member who has shown a real

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commitment to students. During her tenure as director of the Career Planning and Placement Center, she has continued to make major improvements and innovations, such as extending hours, creating computerized placement registration, expanding job fairs to include a multi-cultural job fair and hiring a recruitment coordinator."

Stewart has 19 years of experience in higher education in administration, academic advising, recruitment, career planning, placement, counseling, housing and student newspaper publication. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Eastern.

She oversaw career planning and placement operations for Lake Land College in Mattoon before coming to Eastern.

Stewart said, "I am honored to have been selected to direct this new student affairs division. Our primary goal will be high quality services for students. The departments within the Student Services Division currently offer excellent services provided by a highly dedicated staff. We will assess students' needs and expand services offered to students."

At Eastern, Stewart is president of the Staff Senate, vice president of the Council of University Administrators and chair of the Student Affairs Personnel Committee. She also has served on several administrative search committees.

She is a member of the Illinois Association of School, College and University Staffing and the Midwest College and Placement Association, among others.